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SURVEYS PROGRESS OF WATER-CONSERVANCY PROGRAM; TA-CH'ING HO BY-PASS, HUA HO RESERVOIR BEING BUILT

SPRING PROJECTS TO BE COMPLETED PRIOR TO FLOOD SEASON -- Peiping, Jen-min Jih-pao, 7 Apr 51

Large-scale spring water-conservation projects which are to be completed before the beginning of the summer flood season are now in progress throughout China. The largest and most important one is the Huai Ho project, which consists of reservoir construction in the upper reaches of the river building a flood-water retaining area in the middle reaches, and repairing dikes and dredging the river bed in the lower reaches. Altogether, more than 145,000 civilian laborers are employed on this project alone.

In North China, work on the Chiao-pai Ho project, the Yung-ting Ho project and the Ta-ch'ing Ho project are now in progress. The principal work to be done on the Chiao-pai Ho project is construction of a new river bed in the lower reaches which will accommodate the flow of flood waters up to 3,000 cubic meters per second.

On the Yung-ting Ho project, repairs are being made to dikes and the lower reaches of the river are being dredged to protect the Peiping--Shan-hai-kuan and Peiping-Hankow railway lines from floods.

On the Ta-ch'ing Ho project, dikes are being repaired and drainage ditches are being built in the lowlands south of the river to make available 180,000 mou (one mou equals 1/6 acre) of that area suitable for farming. Work toward diverting the lower part of the river to reduce the volume of flood water on the Hai Ho, and the planting of trees along the upper reaches of the river to prevent erosion were also started during the spring.

Together with other annual repairs carried out in North China, these projects, which total more than 34 million cubic meters of earthwork, are to be completed before the end of June 1951.

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Most of the work being undertaken along the Yellow River, the Yangtze River, and the Chu Chiang is limited to annual repairs. Repairs to the Yellow River area require 16 million cubic meters of earthwork and 520,000 cubic meters of stonework, and are being carried out by 200,000 civilian laborers.

Spring repairs to the Yangtze River area are concentrated on reinforcing the dikes along the Ching Chiang [in Hupeh, near Chiang-ling]. About 60,000 laborers are working on this project, which is expected to be completed by the end of April 1951.

Along the Chu Chiang in Kwangtung, repair work has been in progress since December 1950. Along the Hsi Chiang, repairs are being made to dikes near Kao-yang; on the Tung Chiang, to dikes around Tung-kuan; and on the Pei Chiang, the dikes around Ch'ing-yuan and the floodgates at Lu-pao. All repairs along the Chu Chiang are expected to be completed by the end of April 1951.

In the Su-pei area, repairs to the I Ho were begun on 14 March 1951 by more than 200,000 laborers. The principal work to be done during the spring include dike repairs and dredging the river bed along the middle reaches of the river to accommodate the flow of flood waters up to 3,200 cubic meters per second.

Other projects started during the spring are construction of irrigation canals in Ninghsia Province in the Northwest and dike repairs along the Tu Chiang in southeastern Kweichow Province.

TA-CH'ING HO BY-PASS BEING BUILT -- Bangkok, Ch'uan Min Pao, 12 May 51

Peiping, 11 May -- Construction of a by-pass to let flood waters from the Ta-ch'ing Ho flow directly into the Gulf of Po-hai was started on 3 March 1951 by the North China Water Conservancy Bureau. The entire project is expected to be completed by 1953.

The by-pass begins at Tu-liu-chen, south of Tientsin, and runs eastward too the gulf. When completed, the by-pass will reduce the volume of flood water on the Hai Ho by 2,700 cubic meters per second. Work is now confined to construction of locks to detour the South Grand Canal at the point where the by-pass is to be built.

TO CONTROL HUAI HO WITH RETENTION RESERVOIR -- Peiping, Jen-min Jih-pao, 14 Apr 51

Construction of a flood-water retention reservoir in the middle reaches of the Huai Ho, the most important flood-prevention work to be undertaken along this river, is already in progress. At present, more than 100,000 civilian laborers are employed.

Construction of the retention reservoir, together with the reservoirs which are being built in the upper reaches of the river, will eliminate all danger of floods along the lower stream of the Huai Ho.

The retention reservoir is being built in the area west of Cheng-yang-kuan and between Ho-ch'iu and Ying-shan in Anhwei Province by utilizing the Ch'eng-hsi Hu, Ch'eng-tung Hu, and the lowland in that vicinity. According to the plan, the reservoir will be able to accommodate flood waters up to 7.2 billion cubic meters. The entire project consists of constructing retaining walls and floodgates. An 85-kilometer retaining wall will be built along the south side of the river from Lin-shui-chi, southeast of San-ho-chien, to the north end of the Ch'eng-hsi Hu to separate the Huai Ho from the retention reservoir. In addition to this wall, two short walls will be built; the upper wall to prevent the Ch'eng-hsi Hu from flowing back into the river, and the lower wall to separate the Ch'eng-hsi Hu and the Chiang-chia Hu.

The main, or the upper floodgate, will be built on the Huai Ho itself, near Jun-ho-chi, and the lower floodgate, to drain flood waters back into the Huai Ho, at the north and of Ch'eng-hsi Hu. The main gate is about one and 1/3 miles wide, and covers the entire width of one of the two channels of the Huai Ho at this point. It is divided into the south gate, which will let the water flow into Ch'eng-hsi Hu, and the north gate, which will let the water go down the Huai Ho, through an 85-meter-wide basin which will be built to slow the flow of water immediately below it. The other channel of the river will be completely shut off by a dam. Thus, when the flood water begins to exceed the capacity of the Huai Ho above the main gate, the sou.. gate will be opened to let excess flood water flow into the Ch'eng-hsi Hu, thereby controlling the volume of water in the lower reaches of the river. When the floods are over, not only can the lowlands be used again for farming, but by controlling the flow of water, the lower stream of the Huai Ho can be used for navigation throughout the year.

Although the construction of this flood-water retention reservoir is a huge project, it must be completed by the end of June 1951, before the beginning of the flood season. More than 250,000 tons of cement, rock, gravel, steel gates, etc., are needed for completion of the water gates alone. At present, more than 1,000 technicians and 30,000 civilian laborers are working 24 hours a day to construct the floodgates.

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